REMARKS

I.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1, 6 and 8 have been amended and claim 16 has been added. Claims 9-15 have been cancelled. Claims 1-8 and 16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 16 are the independent claims.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

II.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 8-9, 12 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 005890172A <u>Borman et al.</u>, in view of U.S. Patent No. 006148301A <u>Rosenthal</u>, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 005628010A <u>Ooishi et al</u>.

Claims 2-7, 10-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 005890172A <u>Borman et al.</u>, in view of U.S. Patent No. 006148301A <u>Rosenthal</u>, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 005628010A <u>Ooishi et al.</u>, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 006243711B1 <u>Wu et al</u>.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Claim 1 has been amended and is supported by Fig. 2 and the specification (pg. 11, line 12 - pg. 15, line 26).

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a system for providing a client with database access service. This system is formed from two elements connected by a network: a database system and a server. The first element, a database system, comprises:

"<u>a database containing database records that uses</u> **special characters as part of** <u>text</u> **data thereof,** <u>the special characters being a class of characters that cannot be displayed with a standard font installed in the client. . .</u>"

The database system also comprises a special character definition means, special character image generation means, and first image data storage means. The database system produces a special character database file and special character image files. These files are transmitted over a network to the *server* and stored in a second image data storage means.

According to the system recited in claim 1, database access service is provided not directly by the database system, but through the *server*. The server comprises:

a duplicated database containing the same database records as the database disposed in the database system, including the special characters used therein,

database search means for searching the duplicated database in response to a database query from the client and dynamically producing a document from the search result, the produced document including some of the special characters. . ."

The produced document thus includes some special characters, each of which is identified by a special character identification means and converted to a link to an image special character image file by a link generation means. Finally a compilation means compiles an output document for browsing at the client.

The above system enables clients to search an existing database using special characters via a *server* It is particularly advantageous that the proposed system does not require changes to the original database. More specifically, the database records can be exported from the original database system to a server for public use, without the need for changing special characters that are incompatible with the server and clients.

Applicant respectfully asserts that Borman, Rosenthal, and Ooishi individually or combined do not describe the above structure and features of the database system recited in claim 1.

Although the above comments are specifically direct to currently amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited references.

Claims 2-8

Claims 2-8 depend from the above-discussed independent claim and is patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 3 calls special character image *generation* means. The prior art does not teach or suggest such. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

Claims 9-15

Claims 9-15 have been cancelled.

Claim 16

New claim 16 is a method version of claim 1. Claim 16 recites the operation of the elements of the database system and server recited in claim 1. Claim 16 further includes two providing steps introducing a database system and a server. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 16 is distinguishable over the prior art for similar reasons discussed under claim 1.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is overcome and the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patently distinguishes over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
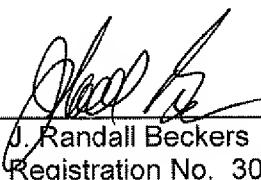
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